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1. The cost of living is rising slowly but steadily. Everybody is cursing the new decrees which abolished food rationing in exchange for an insignificant raise of wages. Now everybody must buy on the free market, which not only absorbs the raise in wages but causes further hardship. It is obvious that these decrees had two purposes: (a) to create a favorable impression abroad; (b) to compel the workers to take part in Stakhanov production races, the only means to secure adequate wages.
2. Meat shortage is still considerable. One of the main reasons for it are meat and salt pork exports to eastern Germany. River transport (barges) are often used for these exports. Another reason is the canning of meats for the future use of the armed forces. Canned meat is being put in storage and the present diet in the Army and security forces consists of fresh meat.
3. The situation on the textile market has improved, but better fabrics, produced in Bielsko and Lodz, are exported to the USSR, India, Turkey, Middle East, etc. The same applies to leather. Clothing is still very expensive (12 to 17 thousand zlotys for the cloth for one man's suit, which is more than the average monthly salary of a worker.)

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37